DEMAND VI—REGISTRATION.

PRESIDENT: We now proceed to the voting of demands.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,60,000 under Demand VI—Registration.

Motion 74.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

74. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,492, for establishment by Rs. 480.

Some kind of explanation appears to be necessary from me for having withdrawn all such cuts. It is a matter of expediency, I admit, because I find that my brother members on the official side are not disposed to grant even such small mercies, and on the non-official side also I find that the members are not sufficiently alive to the necessity for fixing the attention of the Council under the circumstances on small cuts of this nature rather than upon discussing certain matters which lead in the end to some kind of dissensions even on the non-official side. So, in this matter also, I beg to leave to withdraw the motion after pointing out a small grievance from which the people suffer in regard to the Registration Department.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to a point of order whether a question of general policy can be discussed on a motion of this kind.

PRESIDENT: No. This is only a specific motion for the reduction of a definite item under establishment.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If it cannot be done, I withdraw. There is no other motion on the subject. I simply wanted to point out that people are suffering from certain grievances owing to the levy of fees for the attendance of Sub-Registrars at the residences of parties according to the number of persons from whom depositions are taken at the same residence. At present, expenses are greater than before. I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to the next Demand, I may say that there is a motion by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai which is not printed; and it is to reduce the allotment of Rs.2·60 lakhs under Registration by Rs.100 with the object of discussing the question of retaining in service officers who have attained the age of fifty-five.

Motion 75.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to move:—

75. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2·60 lakhs under Demand VI—Registration by Rs.100."

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I am thankful to you, Sir, for kindly admitting the motion and permitting me to discuss the question. On a reference to the *Half-Yearly Civil List*, I notice that the present incumbent in charge of the Registration Department, Mr. Mathan, was born in Kumbham 1045. That publication has been corrected up to Kumbham this year. The usual policy of Government, as far as I was able to gather from the discussions in this Council on a prior occasion and also from the explicit statement of my genial friend the Financial Secretary, is to the effect that officers, especially higher officers, who attain the age of fifty-five are generally asked to retire in the interests of the efficiency of the administration and of the State service. Here is a specific instance of Mr. Mathan outlasting the prescribed period. So I thought it would be desirable to know whether Government are going to lapse into the old system of not enforcing the age-bar and introducing changes in the question of superannuation. That was the main question that attracted my attention on going through the *Half-Yearly Civil List*. It was mainly with that intention that I tabled the motion to call the attention of Government to the situation. If Government are going to revert to a different policy after making many repeated statements, I think I should, in my own humble way, protest against that attempt on the part of Government. I do not wish to add anything more. My object is only to call the attention of the Government to what the Council considers with respect to that question.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Pillai, have you finished?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: I propose to reply to you myself.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But, under the rules, the official member is entitled to speak.

PRESIDENT: Yes; do you wish to speak Mr. Pandalay?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, it is seen from the records that, when the question of retiring Mr. Mathan—

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): Louder, please.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It is seen from the records that, when the question of retiring Mr. Mathan according to his age recorded in the *Civil List* was under the consideration of Government, he sent up a representation stating that the entry in the *Civil List* was wrong and that the date of his birth was 1047 and not 1045.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether the representation was made by Mr. Mathan *before* Kumbham this year?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, before Kumbham this year.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know for how many years the mistake was perpetuated in the *Civil List*?

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MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Several years, I should think.

And then an enquiry was ordered, and as a result of the enquiry, it was found that Mr. Mathan's representation was correct.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Are there similar instances of mistakes in the date of birth of other officers still to be rectified like this?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, there *are* other instances.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know whether, in the light of the remarks made and past experience about the correction of ages of birth in the *Civil List*, Government will favourably consider the desirability of seeing that an age certificate is presented by officers when they are confirmed and that the date specified in the certificate is not changed afterwards?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That question will be considered. There is already some provision in the Service Regulations.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know on what data the mistake in the *Civil List* was found out?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): On evidence taken during the enquiry.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): What was the sort of evidence put in in this particular case?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Church records.

MR K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I wish to know what is the sort of evidence taken.

PRESIDENT: It was evidence sufficient to satisfy the Government.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether it was oral or documentary evidence?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Pandalay has already answered the question.

In reply to Mr. Narayana Pillai, I will just say that this was a particular case of genuine mistake and it was rectified. It is never too late to correct a mistake. As a matter of fact, such corrections of mistake in age are frequent in a country where there is no proper registration of births, but that is a minor detail.

To go on to the general question, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai will be glad to know that Government have no intention at present of departing from the principle to which the Government have frequently and definitely committed themselves, of retiring officers after the age of fifty-five, whenever there are no exceptional reasons to the contrary.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In view of the statement from the Chair as well as that from the learned Chief Secretary, I do not think I would be justified in pressing the motion to a division.

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Accordingly, I withdraw the motion, reserving, of course, my right to explore certain aspects of the question on a future occasion.

PRESIDENT: You will not be estopped.

I take it that the House permits the motion to be withdrawn.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the demand for Rs. 2·60 lakhs under Demand VI—Registration—is granted by the House.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—HUZUR CUTCHERRY.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2·12 lakhs under Demand VII - General Administration—Huzur Cutcherry.

Motions 76 to 78.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. G. RAMAN MENON:

76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 52,824 for Higher Grade clerks by Rs. 1,380.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON:

77. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,847 for Lower Grade clerks by Rs. 1,200.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

78. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,13,548 for Establishment by Rs 100.

Motion 79.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I beg to move the following motion:—

79. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,500 for the purchase of a motor car by Rs. 4,000.

As regards this reduction which I move, I have got some figures to show that the reduction errs, if at all, only on the side of moderation. On page 16 of the *Appropriation Report* for 1099, Appendix D, I find that a car purchased for Her Gracious Highness the Junior Maha Rani cost only Rs. 8,000.

PRESIDENT: Matters touching the Ruling House are all outside the province of the Council.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I referred to it only to show that the cost now required is rather too much. On page 18 of the same report, Appendix D, it is seen that a new model State car cost only Rs. 3,664. So, I think it is only a very fair and moderate reduction that I demand in this case. The reduction of Rs. 4,000 leaves Rs. 5,500 and I hope that that is a decent sum for a motor car. With these words, I move that the reduction may be made.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I may just inform the House that a cheap car is found in the long run

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